

Madagascar for Real



Phromnia rosea in dry tropical forest at Ankarafantsika National Park. (David Parks photo)

Camouflage? These large (5/8 inch) Flatid bugs gather in formations that may resemble flower clusters. This makes them very conspicuous. Perhaps it either fools predators or advertises that the bugs are unpalatable. The nymphs of this species secrete white waxy filaments that may make them distasteful to predators.



Assassin Bug (Reduviidae) from near the Masoala Peninsula ridge at Ambohitsitondroina. (David Parks photo)

Potent predators for their size (note the powerful beak), Assassin Bugs mostly eat other insects. They inject digestive fluid into prey, and suck out their victims' juices. Assassin bugs are well represented in Madagascar, where many species sport warning coloration. This one seems to give potential prey, as well as other predators plenty of opportunity to notice it.